

Amendment  
U.S. Application No.: 09/164,777

pseudo-unique key stored in a first non-erasable non-volatile memory area of a computer, the first non-volatile memory area being unable to be programmatically changed, the method, comprising:

loading the application software program residing in a non-volatile memory area of the computer;

extracting license information from the software program;

encrypting license information using the pseudo-unique key stored in the first non-volatile memory area;

storing the encrypting license information in a second erasable, writable, non-volatile memory area of the BIOS of the computer;

subsequently verifying the application software program based on the encrypted license information stored in the second erasable, writable, non-volatile memory area of the BIOS; and

acting on the application software program based on the verification.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 13 and 16-23 are now pending in this application. Each of the pending claims is believed to define an invention which is novel and unobvious over the cited references. Favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Claims 16 and 20 have been amended to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Claims 11, 12, 14 and 15 have been canceled. In view of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in all aspects in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Therefore, the withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.